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C O S F O R D R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

SURVEYOR and SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1973

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Area (Acres)	48,530
Population - 1971 Census	9,784
Estimated mid 1973	10,610
Number of habitable houses	4,197
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1973	£934,523
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£2,697

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S T A F F

Dr. E. Kinneear, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

J. D. Hackford, M.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H., T.Eng. (C.E.I.)
Incorporated Public Health Engineer,
Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector.

D. P. Carpenter, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,
Deputy Surveyor, and Public Health Inspector.

N. A. Shutes, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,
Additional Public Health Inspector.

E. A. Green, M. R. Tyrrell, and G. B. Gooderham,
Resident Engineers.

R. Goodchild, A.M.I.B.C.O.,
Building Inspector.

Mrs. Jacqueline Lister,
General Clerk.

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1st April, 1974 will herald the formal arrival of the Babergh District Council formed by the amalgamation of the five Districts - Cosford, Hadleigh, Melford, Samford and Sudbury. This, therefore, will be the last Annual Report to be submitted to the Cosford Rural District Councillors by your Surveyor and Public Health Inspector. Preparation of the report has been expedited in order that it can be presented before "A" day, and in consequence it is not as comprehensive as usual.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to the Councillors and Officers who have accepted the challenge of reorganisation of Local Government in this corner of East Anglia, and my best wishes for the future to those who, like myself, are retiring from the public service scene.

W A T E R S U P P L Y

The whole of the Rural District is served by a public water supply operated by the West Suffolk Water Board, Linden House, 147 Kings Road, Bury St. Edmunds. (Tel No: Bury St. Edmunds 2261).

The supply serving most of the Cosford Rural District is derived from boreholes 400 ft. deep in the chalk substrata at Semer. All water is chlorinated at the pumping station to give a chlorine residual of 0.15 parts per million after which it is pumped to the Nedging Tye water tower from whence it is piped into the distribution mains. An iron removal plant is now under construction at the Semer pumping station.

A sample of water taken from the supply from Semer Pumping Station prior to chlorination and submitted for chemical analysis was reported as follows:-

Nitrate	0.2 parts per million.
Nitrite	0.1 parts per million.
Chlorine	106 parts per million.
Hardness	
Temporary	265 parts per million.
Permanent	75 parts per million.
Total	340 parts per million.
Dissolved solids	580 parts per million.
Iron	0.36 parts per million.
Lead, Copper, zinc	Nil parts per million.
Fluoride	0.8 parts per million.
Analyst's remarks:- "This water is of very good organic quality and there is no evidence of any chemical pollution. After the iron has been removed, this water should be well adapted to the purposes of a public supply".	

A detailed report of the activities of the West Suffolk Water Board is made annually by that Authority.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

I have appended hereto various schedules which give a comprehensive picture of the sewerage details of the District.

Routine maintenance of all the works, both main works and small works, and ancilliary pumphouses, has been carried out by 4 men under the supervision of the Sewage Works Superintendant. The works are maintained at a highly satisfactory level and produce effluents acceptable to the River Authorities. In addition to normal maintenance the men are prepared, willingly and without complaint, to carry out various structural works to improve the efficiency of the sewage works and I am glad to have such men working with me.

An incentive bonus scheme was introduced in 1973 and is operating satisfactorily.

It is of interest to note that the proposals for the enlargement of Bildeston Sewage Works incorporate provisions for dealing with cesspool contents and sludge pressing. This will alleviate the present difficulties encountered in the disposal of cesspool contents and the handling of partially dried sludge from the drying beds at present in use at all the main sewage disposal works.

Summary of Sewerage Details at 31st December, 1973.

Parishes served by public sewers	Sewers in course of construction	Sewerage schemes in course of preparation	No sewerage proposals	Works recon-struction in progress
Aldham	Chelsworth	Brent Eleigh	Kettlebaston	Bildeston
Bildeston	Hitcham	Brettenham	Lindsey	Lavenham
Boxford	Polstead village	Cockfield	Milden	
Edwardstone		Nedging-with-Naughton	Semer	
Elmsett		Thorpe Morieux		
Kersey		Wattisham		
Lavenham				
Layham				
Monks Eleigh				
Preston St. Mary				
Whatfield				
Groton				
Polstead Heath				

Sewerage Details of Parishes as at 31st December, 1973

<u>ALDHAM</u>	Scheme to serve Aldham and Elmsett commenced in April, 1971 and completed in September, 1972.
<u>BILDESTON</u>	Scheme prepared by consulting engineers to enlarge existing works to serve Hitcham, Chelsworth, Milden, Wattisham, Nedging-with-Naughton, to include facilities for dealing with cesspool contents, and sludge pressing plant - construction expected complete by August, 1974.
<u>BOXFORD</u>	Sewered. Works nearing design capacity.
<u>BRENT ELEIGH</u>	Consulting Engineers instructed to prepare details for commencement of scheme in 1975/76
<u>BRETTHENHAM</u>	Programmed for commencement in 1975 - Details being prepared.
<u>CHELSWORTH</u>	Sewers laid but not operational - scheme in conjunction with enlargement of Bildeston works.
<u>COCKFIELD</u>	At detail stage - now awaiting Ministerial consent to go to tender. Programmed for commencement in 1974/5.
<u>EDWARDSTONE</u>	Sewered to Boxford Sewage Works.
<u>ELMSETT</u>	Sewered.
<u>GROTON</u>	Sewered, to Boxford Sewage Works.
<u>HITCHAM</u>	Sewers laid but not operational - scheme in conjunction with enlargement of Bildeston Works.
<u>KERSEY</u>	Sewered.
<u>KETTLEBASTON</u>	No proposals.
<u>LAVENHAM</u>	Sewered. Works extension still in progress.
<u>LAYHAM</u>	Sewered and served by Hadleigh Sewage Works.
<u>LINDSEY</u>	No proposals.
<u>MILDEN</u>	Outline proposals to sewer to Bildeston works via. Chelsworth and Monks Eleigh sewers.
<u>MONKS ELEIGH</u>	Sewered. Works nearing design capacity. Future development to be catered for by abandoning existing works and pumping sewage to Bildeston works, via. Chelsworth sewer.
<u>NEDGING-with-NAUGHTON</u>	Programmed for commencement 1974/5. Bildeston sewage works reconstruction allows capacity for inclusion.
<u>POLSTEAD</u>	White Street Green, Calais Street, Polstead Heath and Hadleigh Heath are served by sewers discharging to Boxford Sewage Works. Sewerage of Polstead village commenced.
<u>PRESTON ST. MARY</u>	Sewerage completed December, 1973.
<u>SEMER</u>	No proposals.
<u>THORPE MORIEUX</u>	Proposals to incorporate in Brettenham sewerage scheme.
<u>WATTISHAM</u>	Programmed for commencement 1974/5. Bildeston sewage works reconstruction allows capacity for inclusion.
<u>WHATFIELD</u>	Sewered.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The vehicle employed on refuse collection is a Dennis Paxit 70. This is a 70 cu.yd. vehicle equipped with hydraulic compression mechanism, and came into use on 1st December, 1971. It is manned by a crew of three.

A kerbside system of collection is worked whereby householders are required to put dustbins at the kerb for collection. In the case of persons who are aged or infirm arrangements are made for the dustbin to be collected from the rear of the premises. A weekly collection now operates in all parishes with the help of Samford Rural District Council, who have extended their own service to cover Elmsett, Polstead, Layham, Nedging and Whatfield. An Incentive Bonus Scheme was put into operation in February, 1973.

All normal household refuse collected is taken to a pulverisor plant at Great Whelmetham, owned and operated by Thingoe Rural District Council, and, after pulverisation, is disposed of by controlled tipping methods in an old railway cutting adjacent to the plant.

Bulky items of refuse are taken to a refuse tip at Red Hill, Aldham, by arrangement with Hadleigh Urban District Council.

Cesspool Emptying

The Council operates a cesspool emptying service. A 1,500 gallon "Yorkshire" emptier on a Leyland "Laird" Chassis is used for this purpose. One "free" emptying per annum is allowed to all houses not served by a public sewer, thereafter the service is charged for.

The cesspool emptier is also used for sludge removal from sewage works.

The number of cesspools emptied during the year was:-

<u>No. of cesspools emptied</u>	<u>No. of loads removed</u>	<u>No. of loads from sewage works</u>
942	688	545

Disposal of cesspool contents was formerly by spreading on agricultural land, but sites suitable for all-the-year round use are scarce, and the number of farmers who are prepared to accept this material on their land gets fewer. In consequence, the Council has given instruction that the new sewage disposal works at Bildeston shall have provision for the reception and treatment of cesspool contents. In the meantime, disposal of sludge is carried out at the Long Melford sewage disposal works by arrangement with Melford Rural District Council who operate a sludge press plant at these works.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1968

The Cosford Rural District Council has limited delegated powers only, and the West Suffolk County Council, Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds, (Tel No: Bury St. Edmunds, 63141) is the Local Planning Authority under the Act. All applications for development within the Rural District are submitted to the Cosford Rural District Council and are considered by the Council's Planning Committee whose recommendation is taken into account by the County Planning Department. Controversial applications are referred to the Southern Area Planning Committee which meets monthly. During 1973, 456 applications were made for Planning consent, of these 307 were approved, 127 refused and 22 were either withdrawn or no decision had been issued at 31st December, 1973.

In January, 1968 a report entitled "Rural Planning in West Suffolk" was issued by the County Planning Officer, Mr. James M. Gorst. This report lays down the principles of Rural Planning as seen by the County Planning Authority and gives details of the likely growth of this, and other Rural Districts in West Suffolk up to 1981. The report is also concerned with the desirability of the preservation and conservation of the character of the countryside of West Suffolk and its historic villages and lays down the Planning principles which must be adopted to achieve this aim. A subsequent report, "West Suffolk Rural Planning Part 2" has been issued classifying villages and endeavouring to forecast future growth and development.

BUILDING REGULATIONS 1965

The routine inspection of plans under the Building Regulations is a very time consuming part of the work of the department and I have set out below a table showing the number of applications received and dealt with during the year.

Figures do not give a true picture of the work involved as one application may include several different types of houses on a particular site. The issue of a decision in many cases involved lengthy discussions or letters to applicants in order to obtain a satisfactory solution to various problems.

In addition to the checking of plans, the Regulations also require repeated visits to the sites whilst work is in progress to check various stages of construction, often at comparatively short notice.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. of Applications</u>
Aldham	7
Bildeston	10
Boxford	31
Brent Eleigh	4
Brettenham	13
Chelsworth	8
Cockfield	32
Edwardstone	14
Elmsett	43
Groton	12
Hitcham	23
Kersey	11
Kettlebaston	2
Lavenham	44
Layham	10
Lindsey	6
Milden	4
Monks Eleigh	21
Nedging-with-Naughton	5
Polstead	29
Preston St. Mary	17
Semer	5
Thorpe Morieux	6
Wattisham	3
Whatfield	5
Total	365

The following decisions were issued in respect of Building Regulations applications.

Approved	283
Refused	73
Not dealt with at 31st December, 1973	9

H O U S I N G

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS Etc.

Standard Grants

Applications				Dwellings Improved
Owner/ Occupiers	Other Houses	Approved	Refused	
10	8	18	-	14

Discretionary Grants

Applications			Dwellings Approved	
Received	Approved	Refused	Owner/ Occupier	Other Houses
33	23	10	10	13

Council House Improvements

Total number of Council houses at 31st December, 1973 895

No. of Council houses requiring improvement
at 1st January, 1955 when the Council
commenced improvement works 234

No. of Council houses improved to full standard 191

No. of Council houses sold 9

No. of remaining to be improved 36

The following table shows the distribution of houses in the District and the proportion of Council owned houses.

	Total houses in Parish	Number of Council houses	Post-war Council Houses		Built in 1946-72	Houses acquired by Council and improved	Pre-war and emergency war houses
			Total	Built in 1973			
Aldham	61	6	-	-	-	-	6
Bildeston	324	146	123	-	123	-	23
Boxford	498	108	90	-	90	-	18
Brent Eleigh	68	17	6	-	6	-	11
Brettenham	109	8	6	-	6	-	2
Chelsworth	53	2	-	-	-	-	2
Cockfield	296	76	57	9	48	-	19
Edwardstone	130	24	12	-	12	-	12
Elmsett	209	43	33	8	25	-	10
Groton	82	12	-	-	-	-	12
Hitcham	228	31	21	-	21	-	10
Kersey	163	23	20	-	20	-	3
Kettlebaston	27	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lavenham	690	208	172	-	172	4	32
Layham	234	16	16	-	16	-	-
Lindsey	60	6	2	-	2	-	4
Milden	47	6	4	-	4	-	2
Monks Eleigh	194	34	28	12	16	-	6
Nedging-with-Naughton	115	24	10	-	10	-	14
Polstead	277	40	32	-	32	-	8
Preston St. Mary	76	6	4	-	4	-	2
Semer	54	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thorpe Morieux	88	14	8	-	8	-	6
Wattisham	42	2	-	-	-	-	2
Whatfield	124	43	24	-	24	-	19
Total:-	4,249	895	668	17	639	4	223

Private houses built post-war:-

1946-1971	1972	1973	Total
754	127	81	962

Private houses under construction at 31st December, 1973 - 119

Council houses under construction at 31st December, 1973 - 54

H O U S I N G a n d P U B L I C H E A L T H

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 12 and 39
of the Housing Act, 1957:-

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	- Nil
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Number of dwelling houses which are rendered
fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners	- Nil
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(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	- Nil
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Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, 19, 21 and 23
of the Housing Act, 1957

Notices of "Time and Place" outstanding from year 1972	- 9
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Notices of "Time and Place" served	- 1
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Dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	- 9
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Dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	- 1
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Dwelling houses in respect of which Undertakings were accepted	- 0
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Notices of "Time and Place" outstanding	- 0
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Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	- 3
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Houses closed in pursuance of Closing Orders or Undertaking	- 7
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Number of Families displaced as a result of housing action	- 4
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Number of persons included in these families	- 6
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Proceedings under Sections 18, 19 and 27
of the Housing Act, 1957:-

Number of parts of dwelling houses in respect of
which Closing Orders were made - Nil

Number of parts of dwelling houses closed in
pursuance of Closing Orders - Nil

Proceedings under Section 42 and 43 of
the Housing Act, 1957:-

Number of houses demolished in Clearance
Areas - Nil

Houses subject to Demolition Orders, Closing
Orders and Undertaking Not to Relot subsequently
made fit to the satisfaction of the Council:-

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Demolition Orders were revoked - 0

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Undertakings were cancelled after being made
fit for habitation - 0

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Closing Orders were removed after being made
fit for habitation - 8

SWIMMING BATHS

No public swimming bath is provided within Cosford Rural District, but a new heated in-door pool has been constructed in the Hadleigh Urban District.

An open-air heated pool is available at Sudbury and there are heated in-door pools at Ipswich.

Monks Eleigh Primary School is provided with an open-air "Purley" pool and Boxford Primary School has a larger heated covered pool, both of which are used solely for educational purposes. In both cases the water is circulated, filtered and chlorinated.

SCHOOLS

There are now 9 village schools in the District, and all are supplied with water from public mains. The schools at Bildeston, Boxford, Lavenham, Kersey and Monks Eleigh, Whatfield and Elmsett have water-closets connected to public sewers. The schools at Cockfield and Polstead have water-closets connected to cesspools.

All schools are, therefore, now provided with water-closet systems.

FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTION

Milk Supply

All milk sold in the District is "Sterilised" "Pasteurised" or "Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised)". Two milk Distributors operate from premises at Boxford and Hitcham, but no loose milk is handled.

Ice Cream

No premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

43 premises are registered for the sale only of pre-packed ice cream.

Mobile vans operate in the District but are based outside it. These are inspected from time to time but, in general, give little cause for complaint.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

No slaughtering is now carried out at any premises in the District and local butchers obtain their supplies from meat wholesalers.

From May, 1973 the additional Public Health Inspector has been on loan to Hadleigh Urban District Council carrying out Meat Inspection at a private Slaughterhouse in High Street, Hadleigh.

The food premises in the District are listed as follows:-

Hotels and licensed premises	- 40
Restaurants	- 5
Grocers	- 32
Confectioners	- 7
Butchers	- 5
Fishmongers	- 1
Dairies	- 2
Greengrocers	- 5
Bakers	- 1
Fried fish shops	- 1

The following premises are registered under the provisions of Section 16, of the Food and Drugs Act:-

Manufacture of sausages, potted pressed, pickled or preserved food	- 11
Manufacture of ice cream	- Nil
Sale of ice cream	- 43

Regular routine visits are carried out to food premises and various minor contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations have been remedied after discussion with the occupiers. No legal proceedings were instituted.

RODENT CONTROL

One full-time Rodent Operator is employed to carry out all treatment at private, business and agricultural premises, and at sewage works, and other Council-owned properties, as directed. Treatment at domestic premises is carried out free of charge; business and agricultural treatments are carried out on a "time and materials" charge. No treatments are carried out under Contract.

The poisons generally used for rats are "Warfarin" and "Racumin", and for mice "Racumin", "Alphakil", tracking dust and traps. These particular poisons are used in order to ensure maximum safeguard against accidents caused by ingestion by animals other than rats or mice. All properties at which infestations were found were treated, each treatment involving several visits.

The work carried out by the Rodent Operator during the year is indicated in the following table.

	Type of Property	
	Domestic	Agricultural
1. No. of properties in District	3,725	410
2. (a) No. of properties inspected following notification	205	11
(b) No. of above infested by		
(i) Rats	173	10
(ii) Mice	33	-
3. No. of properties inspected for reasons other than notification	19	-

CARAVAN SITES and MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The following licences under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1961, were in force. Several visits were made to each site during the year and minor defects remedied.

	Individual caravans	- 21 sites
	2 caravans	- 2 sites
	3 caravans	- 1 site
	8 caravans	- 1 site
	25 caravans	- 1 site
Caravan Club Sites:-	5 caravans (Touring)	- 3 sites

FACTORIES ACT 1961

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>No. of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	1	-	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	32	4	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	33	4	Nil	Nil

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Number of Premises Registered</u>	<u>Number of Registered Premises Inspected.</u>
Offices	3	-
Retail Shops	18	4
Wholesale Shops	1	-
Catering establishments	2	1
Fuel Storage depots	-	-
Total:	24	5
Number of visits made	-	5

